

Amendments to the Claims:

1-14. (Previously cancelled)

25. (New) An ion pair surfactant comprising a first N-C₈₋₂₄ acylamino acid and a second amino acid in a ratio of between 1.0 to 1.6 equivalents of the second amino acid relative to the first acylamino acid, with ion pairs between carboxyl anions of the acylamino acid and amino group cations of the amino acid.

26. (New) A surfactant according to claim 25, wherein the first N-C₈₋₂₄ acylamino acid and the second amino acid are in a ratio of between 1.0 to 1.4 equivalents of the second amino acid relative to the first acylamino acid.

27. (New) A surfactant according to claim 25, wherein the second amino acid is at least one alpha-amino acid.

28. (New) A surfactant according to claim 25, wherein the second amino acid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of glycine, trimethylglycine, alanine, serine, proline, hydroxylproline, glutamine, glutamic acid, asparagine, aspartic acid, and glycylglycine.

29. (New) A surfactant according to claim 25, wherein the second amino acid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of glycine, trimethylglycine, alanine, serine, glutamic acid, and glycylglycine.

30. (New) A surfactant according to claim 25, wherein the first acylamino acid is an N-C₁₂₋₁₈ acylamino acid.

31. (New) An emulsion comprising a surfactant salt according to claim 25, wherein the surfactant content is 0.1% to 5% by weight of the emulsion.
32. (New) An emulsion composition that contains an essential surfactant as described in claim 25 as an emulsifier between 0.1% to 5% by weight of the emulsion, water, and oil components.
33. (New) An ion pair surfactant comprising a first dicarboxylic N-C₈₋₂₄ acylamino acid and a second amino acid in a ratio of between 1.3 to 2.3 equivalents of the second amino acid relative to 2 equivalents of the first acylamino acid, having less than equal molar amounts of alkali counterion, with ion pairs between carboxyl anions of the acylamino acid and amino group cations of the amino acid.
34. (New) A surfactant according to claim 33, wherein the first N-C₈₋₂₄ acylamino acid and the second amino acid are in a ratio of between 1.4 to 2.0 equivalents of the second amino acid relative to 2 equivalents of the first acylamino acid.
35. (New) A surfactant according to claim 33, wherein the first amino acid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of acylglutamic acid and acylaspartic acid.
36. (New) A surfactant according to claim 33, wherein the second amino acid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of glycine, trimethylglycine, alanine, serine, proline, hydroxyproline, glutamine, glutamic acid, asparagine, aspartic acid, and glycylglycine.

37. (New) A surfactant according to claim 33, wherein the second amino acid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of glycine, trimethylglycine, alanine, serine, glutamic acid, and glycylglycine.

38. (New) A surfactant according to claim 33, wherein the first acylamino acid is an N-C₁₂₋₁₈ acylamino acid.

39. (New) An emulsion comprising a surfactant salt according to claim 33, wherein the surfactant content is 0.1% to 5% by weight of the emulsion.

40. (New) An emulsion composition that contains an essential surfactant as described in claim 33 as an emulsifier between 0.1% to 5% by weight of the emulsion, water, and oil components.